Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I believe that the matter is still pending. The assignment is postponed.

The Mukundapuram Treasury defalcation Case.

330. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether the parties acquitted by the acting Sessions Judge in the sensational Mukundapuram Treasury Defalcation Case, but who had already made good the defalcated amount have been refunded the respective amounts contributed by the officers ;

(2) whether they have been reinstated in their respective posts;

(3) the reasons for not doing so, if the answers to (1) and (2) are in the negative?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(1) No.

(2) Shroff P. Velu Menon was retired on pension. Samprati K. S. Ayyappan was ordered to be reinstated as a Taluk Head clerk on Rs. 45 ; but since then he has applied for retirement.

(3) As for (1) the question of refund does not arise as the amount defalcated was recovered from the officers responsible under the rules. As for (2) Government considered it inexpedient, in view of the circumstances attending the case, to reinstate them to the posts they held at the time.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why were they acquitted, and why was not the defalcated amount refunded, since they were acquitted?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Please see sub-division (3), where the answer is given.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the necessity for prosecution, since they paid the defalcated amount.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is not a supplementary question, Sir. I request for your ruling. An offence is committed, and therefore prosecution is necessary.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why was Mr. Ayyappan reduced to the post of Taluk Head clerk, when he was honourably acquitted?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Acquittal does not mean that a man is not guilty of want of official discipline or of official irregularities. Even after acquittal, he is amenable to the departmental discipline.

Public lighting in Porattisseri.

331. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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(1) if there was a representation from the public of Porattisseri Panchayat for public lighting and, if so, the date of that representation;

(2) whether an enquiry was conducted by the Superintendent through the Panchayat, and whether as a result of it the necessity therefor was endorsed by the Panchayat;

(3) whether after all this the Superintendent said that the importance of the place did not warrant lighting as resolved by the Panchayat after elaborate enquiry;

(4) if as the Superintendent says 'കരുവന്തുർ ഒരു സാനിറ്റാറി വിളക്കു വെപ്പിക്കത്തക്കണ്ണം അത്ര പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു സ്ഥലമല്ലാത്തതിനാൽ പഞ്ചായത്തിൽനിന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടവിധം ചെയ്യാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല etc'. will the Government be pleased to state the 'measure' according to his estimation for entitling a locality for public lighting?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(1) Yes, in 1098.

(2) Yes.

(3) & (4) Public lighting by Panchayats is generally allowed only in crowded localities.

The St. Joseph's Catholic Syrian Bank, Narakkal.

332. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Regarding St Joseph's Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.—

(a) will the Government be pleased to state if it is aware that, although more than a year has passed after its registration and shares issued and subscribed for at the same time, share certificates have not been issued;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state if it is aware that no share register is maintained showing the amounts collected from shareholders and their liability;

(c) will the Government be pleased to state if the registers prescribed by the Joint Stock Companies Regulation are kept in the Bank;

(d) what action the Registrar has taken in the matter?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) Yes; but steps are being taken by the Managing Director to issue the share certificates as soon as possible.

(b) & (c) The Member is referred to the first part of the answer to question No. 179 of the legislative session of Vrischigam 1102.

(d) The Assistant Registrar has advised the Managing Director to issue the share certificates immediately.

333. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state if the Registrar or his Assistant has visited and inspected the Bank Books, and did he find the statutory obligations of the Directorate fully carried out?

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